

Message Text

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EXDIS

FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL AND UNDER SECRETARY
MAW FROM AMB STEVENSON

FROM USDEL LOS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJ: ISRAEL LOS DELEGATION DESIRES DIRECT TALKS WITH
EGYPTIAN DELEGATION

REF: GENEVA 2287

SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR AMIEL NAJAR, CHAIRMAN ISRAELI LOS
DELEGATION WHO CLOSE POLITICAL ADVISER TO PRIME MINISTER
AND WHO FANCIES SELF EXPERT ON ARAB PSYCHOLOGY BASED
ON LONG RESIDENCE IN CAIRO, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR
SHABTAI ROSENNE, REVIEWED PROGRESS OF GENEVA SESSION
WITH AMBASSADOR STEVENSON. END SUMMARY

1. IN COURSE DISCUSSION NAJAR EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW
THAT PROGRESS ON INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES OF ISRAELI
ACCESS TO STRAITS OF TIRAN, BAB-EL-MANDEB AND GIBRALTAR
WOULD GREATLY FACILITATE ACCEPTANCE BY ISRAELI CABINET
OF EGYPTIAN PROPOSALS WITHOUT FORMAL EGYPTIAN PLEDGE
OF NON-BELLIGERENCY. HE STRESSED STRONG APPREHENSION
IN ISRAELI CABINET OVER POSSIBLE CUTTING OFF OF ACCESS TO
ISRAEL THROUGH GULF OF AQUABA.

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2. STEVENSON INQUIRED IF ISRAELI GOVERNMENT IS NOW

PREPARED ACCEPT PROPOSAL US PUT TO EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT AT CARACAS OF HAVING UNIMPEDED TRANSIT OF STRAITS (INCLUDING SUBMERGED TRANSIT AND OVERFLIGHT) APPLY ONLY TO STRAITS CONNECTING HIGH SEAS TO HIGH SEAS (SUCH AS STRAITS OF GIBRALTAR AND BAB-EL-MANDEB) WITH REGIME OF NON-SUSPENDABLE INNOCENT PASSAGE AND CLAUSE RESERVING LEGAL POSITION OF PARTIES APPLYING IN STRAITS CONNECTING HIGH SEAS TO TERRITORIAL SEAS OF A FOREIGN STATE (SUCH AS STRAIT OF TIRAN). NAJAR GAVE SOMEWHAT EQUIVOCAL RESPONSE AND INDICATED DESIRABILITY OF BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN DELEGATION. IMPLICATION WAS THAT HE WOULD BE INTERESTED STEVENSON ACTING AS INTERMEDIARY IN CONDUCTING OR ARRANGING BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS BUT AS NO DIRECT REQUEST WAS MADE, NO RESPONSE WAS GIVEN.

3. IN VIEW SPLIT ARAB GROUP AT CONFERENCE ON STRAITS ISSUE (REFTEL) AND CRITICAL LEADERSHIP OF EGYPT IN OPPOSING UNIMPEDED TRANSIT, ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN ACCOMMODATION ON STRAITS COULD CONSTITUTE IMPORTANT BREAKTHROUGH AT LOS CONFERENCE AS WELL AS FACILITATING US OVERALL MID-EAST OBJECTIVES.

4. REQUEST AUTHORITY EXPLORE FURTHER NAJAR PROPOSAL WITH HIM AND LEADER EGYPTIAN LOS DELEGATION.
ABRAMS

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